

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An interactive television program guide system with niche hubs comprising:

user television equipment that is connected to a television distribution facility and that is configured to support an interactive television program guide with interactive television features related to a category of television programming, the interactive television features comprising listings of television programs related to the category and at least one other feature related to the category being organized into a niche hub within the interactive program guide, the user television equipment being configured to provide the user with an opportunity to use the interactive television features related to the category of television programming within the niche hub; and

a data storage device for storing data used with the interactive television features and for providing the data to the user television equipment for display on that user television equipment within the niche hub.

2. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise television program guide listings related to a sub-genre within the category of the niche hub.

3. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise video-

on-demand listings related to the category of the niche hub.

4. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise pay-per-view listings related to the category of the niche hub.

5. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise listings of web-site links related to the category of the niche hub.

6. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise news groups related to the category of the niche hub.

7. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise user help features.

8. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a listing of suggested programs related to the category of the niche hub.

9. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 8 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a listing of suggested programs related to the category

of the niche hub that are based upon the user's programming preferences.

10. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise targeted advertising.

11. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 10 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise targeted advertising that is based upon the user's preferences.

12. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a notification of suggested programs related to the category of the niche hub.

13. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to purchase merchandise related to the category of the niche hub.

14. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a searchable database comprising programs related to the category of the niche hub.

15. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television

programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to record a television program.

16. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise program reviews related to the category of the niche hub.

17. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise interviews related to the category of the niche hub.

18. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise contests related to the category of the niche hub.

19. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise trivia related to the category of the niche hub.

20. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to set a reminder for a program.

21. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to purchase premium channels related to the category of the niche hub.

22. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise news stories.

23. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise real-time data related to the category of the niche hub.

24. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise voting options related to the category of the niche hub.

25. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise wagering options related to the category of the niche hub.

26. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise personal profiles for users of the user television equipment.

27. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise chat groups related to the category of the niche hub.

28. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the

ability to send messages to users of other user television equipment.

29. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is movies.

30. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is sports.

31. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 30 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a sports ticker.

32. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 30 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a sports scores.

33. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 30 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise information on local sports.

34. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 30 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise fantasy sports leagues.

35. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is family programming.

36. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 35 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise parental control features.

37. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 35 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise pen-pal e-mail clubs.

38. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is music.

39. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 38 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to listen to a music track on-demand.

40. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 38 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to set background music.

41. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 38 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a karaoke mode.

42. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 38 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise the ability to display discographies.

43. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is news.

44. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 43 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise stock data.

45. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 43 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub comprise a weather report.

46. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is local information.

47. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is soap operas.

48. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is culture.

49. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the category of the niche hub is related to television lover's.

50. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 49 wherein the television



programming features of the niche hub comprise highly searchable television program guide listings.

51. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the television programming features of the niche hub are organized into individual areas of the niche hub and wherein each of the individuals areas are related to a sub-category of the category.

52. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the data storage device is a server connected to the user television equipment through a communications path.

53. An interactive television program guide system with niche hubs comprising:

user television equipment that is connected to a television distribution facility and that is configured to support an interactive television program guide with interactive television features, the user television equipment being configured to provide the user with an opportunity to select any of the interactive television features to be part of a niche hub and being configured to display data related to the interactive television features within the niche hub; and

a data storage device for storing the data related to the interactive television features and for providing the data to the user television equipment for display on that user television equipment within the niche hub.

55. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise video-on-demand listings.

57. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise listings of web-site links.

59. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise user help features.

61. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive

television program guide displays targeted advertising that is based upon the user's selections.

62. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise a notification of suggested programs.

63. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television programming features comprise an ability to purchase merchandise.

64. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the television interactive programming comprise a searchable database comprising programs.

65. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise an ability to record a television program.

66. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise program reviews.

67. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise interviews.

68. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise contests.

69. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise trivia.

70. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise an ability to set a reminder for a program.

71. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise the ability to purchase premium channels.

72. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise news stories.

73. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the data related to the interactive television features within the niche hub comprise real-time data.

74. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise voting options.

75. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise wagering options.

76. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive

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television programming features comprise personal profiles for users of the user television equipment.

77. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise chat groups.

78. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise an ability to send messages to users of other user television equipment.

79. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 53 wherein the interactive television features comprise fantasy sports leagues.

80. A method for providing television programming features to a user of user television equipment in a niche hub of an interactive television program guide that is implemented using user television equipment, the method comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to select interactive television features relating to a category of television programming within a niche hub of the interactive television program guide, the interactive television features comprising listings of television programs related to the category and at least one other feature related to the category;

receiving data related to an interactive television feature of the niche hub selected by the user at the user television equipment from a storage device; and

displaying the data related to the selected interactive television feature on the user television equipment within the niche hub.

81. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise video-on-demand listings.

82. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise pay-per-view listings.

83. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise listings of web-site links.

84. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise news groups.

85. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise user help features.

86. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise a listing of suggested programs.

87. The method defined in claim 86 wherein the interactive television features comprise a listing of suggested programs that are based upon the user's programming preferences.

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96. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise contests.

97. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise trivia.

98. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise an ability to set a reminder for a program.

99. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise the ability to purchase premium channels.

100. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise news stories.

101. The method defined in claim 80 wherein receiving the data related to the interactive television feature further comprises receiving real-time data.

102. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise voting options.

103. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise wagering options.

104. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television programming features comprise personal profiles for users of the user television equipment.



105. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise chats groups.

106. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise an ability to send messages to users of other user television equipment.

107. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features comprise fantasy sports leagues.

108. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is movies.

109. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is sports.

110. The method defined in claim 109 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise a sports ticker.

111. The method defined in claim 109 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise a sports scores.

112. The method defined in claim 109 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise information on local sports.

113. The method defined in claim 109 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise fantasy sports leagues.

114. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is family programming.

115. The method defined in claim 114 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise parental control features.

116. The method defined in claim 114 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise pen-pal e-mail clubs.

117. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is music.

118. The method defined in claim 117 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise the ability to listen to a music track on-demand.

119. The method defined in claim 117 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise the ability to set background music.

120. The method defined in claim 117 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise a karaoke mode.

121. The method defined in claim 117 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise an ability to display discographies.

122. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is news.

123. The method defined in claim 122 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise stock data.

124. The method defined in claim 122 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise a weather report.

125. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is local information.

126. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is soap operas.

127. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is culture.

128. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the category of the niche hub is related to television lover's.

129. The method defined in claim 128 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise highly searchable television program guide listings.

130. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub are organized into individual areas of the niche hub and wherein each of the individuals areas are related to a sub-category of the category.

131. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the storage device is a server connected to the user television equipment through a communications path.

132. The method defined in claim 80 wherein the storage device is a memory device that is part of the user television equipment.

133. A method for providing television programming features to a user of user television equipment in a niche hub of an interactive television program guide that is implemented using user television equipment, the method comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to add interactive television features relating to television programming to a niche hub of the interactive program guide;

providing the user with an opportunity to select an interactive television feature of the niche hub;

receiving data related to an interactive television feature of the niche hub selected by the user at the user television equipment from a storage device; and

displaying the data relating to the selected interactive television feature on the user television equipment with the niche hub.

134. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise television program guide listings.

135. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise video-on-demand listings.

136. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise pay-per-view listings.

137. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise listings of web-site links.

138. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise news groups.

139. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise user help features.

140. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise a listing of suggested programs that are based upon the user's programming preferences.

141. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television program guide displays targeted advertising that is based upon the user's selections.

142. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise a notification of suggested programs.

143. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television programming features comprise an ability to purchase merchandise.

144. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the television interactive programming comprise a searchable database comprising programs.

145. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise an ability to record a television program.

146. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise program reviews.

147. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise interviews.

148. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise contests.

149. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise trivia.

150. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise an ability to set a reminder for a program.

151. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise the ability to purchase premium channels.

152. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise news stories.

153. The method defined in claim 133 wherein receiving the data related to the interactive television feature further comprises receiving real-time data.

154. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise voting options.

155. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise wagering options.

156. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television programming features comprise personal profiles for users of the user television equipment.

157. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise chat groups.

158. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features of the niche hub comprise an ability to send messages to users of other user television equipment.

159. The method defined in claim 133 wherein the interactive television features comprise fantasy sports leagues.